aggressive performance measures that have led to implementation of the best practices of government and private sector health care. On average, VA medical facilities now receive higher accreditation scores than do private sector facilities.

While this transformation was taking place, VA became an industry leader in such areas as patient safety, surgical quality assessment, the computerization of medical records, telehealth, preventive screenings and immunizations.

There have been no big wars lately, no long lines of troops coming home, no welcoming parades necessary. And as these events and the years between fade, so too do memories. It might be only human to become complacent about those who not so long ago left their families, their schools, their jobs, and the security of their lives because their country asked. They now need our help, as will future generations of servicemen and women, but platitudes on Veterans Day and Memorial Day are woefully inadequate. Words alone will not mend broken spirits and cannot heal broken bodies. The best possible care—the type VA provides as part of a comprehensive system of benefits—is the most appropriate honor we can bestow on veterans.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 16, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,709,313,725,685.43, five trillion, seven hundred nine billion, three hundred thirteen million, seven hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred eighty-five dollars and forty-three cents.

Five years ago, July 16, 1996, the Federal debt stood at $5,158,430,000,000, five trillion, one hundred fifty-eight billion, four hundred thirty million.

Ten years ago, July 16, 1991, the Federal debt stood at $3,541,429,000,000, three trillion, five hundred forty-one billion, four hundred twenty-nine million.

Fifteen years ago, July 16, 1986, the Federal debt stood at $2,069,283,000,000, two trillion, sixty-nine billion, two hundred eighty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 16, 1976, the Federal debt stood at $618,625,000,000, six hundred eighteen billion, six hundred twenty-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than $5 trillion, $5,090,688,725,685.43, five trillion, ninety billion, six hundred eighty-eight million, seven hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred eighty-five dollars and forty-three cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PRAISE FOR GEORGIA'S KWAME BROWN ON BEING NBA'S NUMBER ONE DRAFT

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, every one of us has a life story. Every person is a book, and I would like to tell you about one young man from the state of Georgia who is beginning a new chapter in his.

Kwame Brown has known adversity since the age of 5, when his parents split up for good and he landed in a shelter with his mother and siblings for 10 months. With the help of relatives, Kwame and his family got out of that shelter and things got better—but not by much. Kwame's mother, Joyce, raised him and his seven siblings by herself in Brunswick, GA, supporting the family by cleaning hotel rooms. That job ended in 1993 when a back injury and other health problems left Ms. Brown unable to work. Since then, the family has scraped by on a monthly disability check and a few extra dollars from babysitting. Their mode of transportation: a bicycle. Such adversity would break most families, but not Kwame Brown's family.

With the help of a church mentor, Kwame and his siblings became focused and set goals for themselves. Kwame decided he wanted to be a better student and a better basketball player. Through his faith and many hours of hard work, Kwame improved his grades so much that he landed on the honor roll at Brunswick's Glynn Academy. And now he has achieved something that no other person in this country ever has.

On June 27, 2001, 19-year-old Kwame became the first high school player ever to be picked as the No. 1 draft in the NBA. This young man who once lived in a neighborhood so poor it was nicknamed ''The Bottom'' has pulled himself up to the very top.

At 6-feet-11 inches tall and 240 pounds, Kwame averaged 20.1 points, 13.3 rebounds and 5.8 blocked shots as a senior last year at Glynn Academy; he scored 1,539 career points. His exceptional talent has given rise to a number of awards. He was named to McDonald's All-America Team and USA Today's All-USA First team. He was also Georgia's High School Player of the Year.

Kwame Brown is not only a star on the court. His off-the-court life is just as exemplary. Even though he went against his mother's wishes in postponing plans to attend the University of Florida, Kwame believes that his decision to enter the NBA will allow him to give his family a better life than they have ever known. And he has promised his mother and himself that he will still get that college education. First, he wants to give his mother something she has never had: the keys to a brand new home.

Basketball legend Michael Jordan, who is part-owner of the Wizards, called Kwame ''a confident kid who understands his surroundings . . . He comes from a family where nothing has been given to him. He has gotten this far with hard work and a little dreaming.''

I am honored to recognize Kwame Brown, a young man who is not only a talented athlete, but also humble, wise and mature beyond his years. I look forward to this new chapter in Kwame's life with great anticipation. I know his will be a fascinating story with a wonderful ending.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LAKE

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to James Lake upon the occasion of his completion in June of a tenure as the President of the American Nuclear Society for the 2000/2001 year. The American Nuclear Society is an international scientific and educational organization established in 1954. Its membership now has approximately 11,000 engineers, scientists, administrators, and educators representing over 1,600 corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies.

The work of nuclear engineers and scientists is especially relevant to meeting the increasing need of the Nation for electricity. Around the United States, there is a growing public interest in new nuclear plants which offer an economical, safe and environmentally-friendly alternative for the generation of electricity. The development of nuclear professionals is a valuable service for the Nation that advances our energy security and economic well-being.

Jim Lake's service as the President of the American Nuclear Society this year has helped to stimulate the interest in new nuclear generation which has stemmed from energy shortages in California and higher energy prices in many areas. He has crossed the Nation many times this year to meet with nuclear professionals, industry executives, public servants, educators and students to seek their views and ideas on an expanding role for nuclear energy in the Nation's future. He has represented the professionals of the United States in many forums overseas, and has brought home a broad perspective on nuclear energy's role in a balanced energy portfolio.

Jim Lake's career now spans twenty-eight years, of which he has spent the last seventeen at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in my State. As he completes his tenure as President, he returns to the Laboratory as an Associate Laboratory Director with an enthusiasm for nuclear energy that is fueled by his many experiences of the last year.

Always interested in the development of the professionals at the Laboratory, Jim has been an active and tireless supporter of the Idaho Section of the American Nuclear Society. His leadership of that section resulted in its award for Outstanding Section Management in 1992. The Idaho Section has won many awards in the last ten years and is considered to be truly one of the best in the society.

Jim Lake attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, receiving a Master's degree in 1969 and a Doctoral degree in 1972. He was elected a Distinguished Engineering Alumnus by Georgia Tech in 1996, and a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 1992. He is the author of over thirty technical publications in the disciplines of reactor physics, nuclear engineering and nuclear reactor design. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our